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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: OPRC

SUBJECT: ABC-TV 20/20 FILMING PLANS AT U.S. EMBASSIES
ABROAD

REF: STATE 003083

1. (CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. WE REGRET TO HAVE TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE WAS NOT SEEN BY EMBASSY OFFICERS BEFORE AN ABC TV CREW HAD DONE SOME FILMING IN OUR AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE ON THE MORNING OF JANUARY 6TH. THE CREW FILMED CONGRESSMAN ~~ADDABBO~~ ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL, THE AMBASSADOR BEING ASKED SIMILAR QUESTIONS, AND THEN THE BEGINNING OF THE EMBASSY BRIEFING FOR CODEL ADDABBO. THE FILMING WAS ALL AT CLOSE RANGE AND WE ARE CONVINCED THAT IT DID NOT AFFECT EMBASSY SECURITY.

3. ROME 232 REPORTED TO YOU THAT ABC HAD REQUESTED TO DO SUCH FILMING. UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR CABLE DID NOT GET TO US UNTIL AFTER THE EVENT. IN ANY CASE, WE WANT THE DEPARTMENT TO KNOW THAT WE PERMITTED THE FILMING IN THE AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE BECAUSE WE SAW NO DAMAGE TO OUR SECURITY INTERESTS RESULTING FROM THIS. ABC TV'S ORIGINAL REQUEST HAD BEEN TO FILM MEMBERS OF CODEL ADDABBO IN FRONT OF THE CHANCERY, AND WE PROHIBITED THAT, FOR SECURITY REASONS. WE WILL OF COURSE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL FROM THIS POINT ON.

RABB

END OF MESSAGE

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State Dept. review completed

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